

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC IMPACT TO SMALL BUSINESSES

- 1. Name of Board, Committee or Council:** Board of Dispensing Opticians
- 2. Rulemaking hearing date:** August 25, 2006
- 3. Types of small businesses that will be directly affected by the proposed rules:**
 - (a) Optometrists, ophthalmologists, and optical dispensaries that provide apprenticeship training for employees who are seeking licensure in Tennessee as a dispensing optician; and
 - (b) Optometrists, ophthalmologists, and optical dispensaries that employ licensed dispensing opticians; and
 - (c) Applicants for licensure as a dispensing optician who intend to practice as sole proprietors.
- 4. Types of small businesses that will bear the cost of the proposed rules:**
 - (a) Optometrists, ophthalmologists, and optical dispensaries that provide apprenticeship training for employees who are seeking licensure in Tennessee as a dispensing optician; and
 - (b) Optometrists, ophthalmologists, and optical dispensaries that employ licensed dispensing opticians; and
 - (c) Applicants for licensure as a dispensing optician who intend to practice as sole proprietors.
- 5. Types of small businesses that will directly benefit from the proposed rules:**

The Board anticipates that members of the public who utilize the services of dispensing opticians, rather than small business, will directly benefit from the proposed rules.
- 6. Description of how small business will be adversely impacted by the proposed rules:**
 - (a) Some optometrists, ophthalmologists, and optical dispensaries may have increased difficulty in meeting the requirements to be a supervisor of apprentices.
 - (b) Some optometrists, ophthalmologists, and optical dispensaries may conclude that they can no longer supervise apprentices.

- (c) Some applicants for licensure as a dispensing optician who intend to practice as sole proprietors may be delayed by having to retake the Tennessee Jurisprudence Examination.

7. Alternatives to the proposed rule that will accomplish the same objectives but are less burdensome, and why they are not being proposed:

The Board need not propose a less burdensome alternative to the proposed rule amendments regarding the apprentice program because such an alternative presently exists, that being the educational pathway to licensure.

The Board does not believe there is a less burdensome alternative to a jurisprudence examination that is an “open-book” test which is mailed to applicants.

8. Comparison of the proposed rule with federal or state counterparts:

The Board is not aware of any federal counterparts.

The proposed rule amendments regarding apprenticeship are similar to current state rules for apprentices who are seeking licensure as a hearing instrument specialist.

The proposed rule amendment regarding the jurisprudence examination is very similar to those health-related licensing boards, committees, and councils which require such an exam.